

Bn

SKETCH

— OF —

Johnson County,
IOWA.

By Iowa City Board of Trade.

1880.



The Newberry Library

The Everett D. Graff Collection
of Western Americana

2152

SKETCH
OF
JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA,

WITH A

Review of Its Early History and Subsequent Development,

ITS

Educational, Manufacturing, Agricultural,
and Other Interests.

PUBLISHED BY IOWA CITY BOARD OF TRADE.

IOWA CITY:

REPUBLICAN STEAM PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY.

November, 1880.

I
977.7
Sept 20

IOWA CITY BOARD OF TRADE.

ORGANIZED JULY 13TH, 1880.

OFFICERS.

E. CLARK, PRESIDENT.

A. C. YOUNKIN,
CHAS. LEWIS, VICE-PRESIDENTS.

W. J. SCHELL, TREASURER.

H. S. FAIRALL, SECRETARY.

DIRECTORS.

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| E. CLARK, | C. F. LOVELACE, |
| E. F. CLAPP, | S. H. FAIRALL, |
| R. LONG, | H. W. FYFFE. |

OFFICE IN CITY HALL.

TIME OF REGULAR MEETING—FIRST TUESDAY NIGHT IN EACH MONTH.



PREFACE.

The contents of this pamphlet appeared in THE IOWA CITY REPUBLICAN, and attracted wide attention. The undersigned, appointed by THE BOARD OF TRADE to superintend the publication of the article in a suitable and more permanent form, and have it distributed in manufacturing centers in the East and elsewhere, respectfully report that they have sent out nearly five hundred copies of THE REPUBLICAN, and hereby submit this SKETCH for the use of THE BOARD and all citizens desirous of furthering the interests of Johnson County and vicinity.

N. H. TULLOSS,
W. J. SCHELL,
J. NORWOOD CLARK,
A. C. YOUNKIN,
C. F. LOVELACE, } *Committee.*

IOWA CITY, November 1, 1880.



SKETCH OF JOHNSON COUNTY.

The following articles form a plain, unvarnished sketch of Johnson county as it is to-day, together with an account of its early history and subsequent development. The principal object in presenting them at this time, is to show what advantages of health, wealth, and general prosperity are here to be enjoyed, and to point out to those persons living in over-crowded communities how they can benefit themselves by moving into this or some other good county in Iowa. We shall call special attention to the unusual revival of good times in this section of the country, as shown by the great activity in manufacturing, the thrift of the farmers, and the demand for labor in all branches of trade. The people of the county have not only noticed and felt this change for the better, but it has made its influence felt all over Iowa, and resulted in attracting attention hither, and drawing capital and strangers to our midst. In Iowa City, new and expensive manufactories have been erected; and, when in operation, will give employment to several hundred workmen. Business blocks and private residences have been erected so rapidly that materials and workmen have not been found to meet the demand; while the permanent work in the city, in building bridges, excavating, widening, and improving the streets, and putting in better sewerage, has gone rapidly along, and given Iowa City a still wider reputation for beauty, healthfulness, and enterprise.

This new order of affairs has also encouraged the people living in the surrounding country to greater efforts. With the prospect of extensive glucose works, alcohol works, and other factories, ready and anxious to buy and consume all the corn they can raise; with one of the largest and best oat meal mills in the country, with a capacity sufficiently great to make into meal all the oats that can be spared outside of home consumption; with other factories, at which a good market can be had for rye, barley, and all sorts of grain; with a large pork-packing house — a long-needed establishment — where the thousands of hogs can be sold to advantage; with machine shops, where mills and engines can be made, and repairing done,—they have gone to work with renewed energies, making the soil more than ever fruitful, raising more and better breeds of stock, and improving their homes. Thus does the good influence of manufactories pervade the whole community.

And while we refer with pride to the growth and prosperity of the county, contrasting its present condition with that of earlier years, we

lay great stress upon one of the features of Johnson county—its educational advantages. Here is the State University, the cap-stone of the entire structure of education in Iowa. From its portals go forth annually a large number of young men and women fitted for duty in life as lawyers, physicians, engineers, and teachers, or proficient in some branches, whereby they may become useful citizens. Near by, and useful stepping-stones to the University, are two academies, well conducted and of a State reputation; an old and popular seminary; two institutes conducted by the Catholic congregation; a high school that fits students ready for college; and, lastly, an excellent system of ward schools. Of these institutions, and the good work they are accomplishing, more is said in the article in which they are specially treated.

Then, again, we speak of the location—give a description of Johnson county—showing how high and favorably it is situated; the salubrity of its climate; the streams that water it like a garden, and its broad acres of timber and prairie. The Indians loved to make the banks and bluffs of its rivers, in years gone by, their abiding place, and the same spots are now the pleasure resorts of our people.

An interesting topic, forming a chapter of this review, is the agricultural resources of the county. Few people realize the amount of grain and other produce the acres of land in Johnson county yield. Some idea of it may be gained, outside of statistics, by a drive into the country during harvest month. Then can be seen acres and acres of rustling green corn; oats, rye, and wheat, golden ripe, as far as the eye can view. A little later in the year, the bins and cribs begin to overflow, the wagons groan under great loads of corn, wheat, and oats, and long trains of cars run east and south at all hours of day and night, carrying off millions of bushels that go to enrich the quiet, plodding farmer, and add to the world's wealth.

Another feature of the county, of which it is a pleasure to speak, is the raising of stock, both pure-bred and common. We tell of the leading position Johnson county has in the State in this direction, with her celebrated herds of Short-horn, Jersey, and Holstein cattle; Poland-China, Berkshire, and other fancy strains of hogs; Merino, and Cotswold sheep; the Norman and Clydesdale horses. Besides fine stock, the common breed is of an excellent variety, and is fast growing remunerative.

Of the industries of the county, a short sketch is given, in connection with the article on manufactories, and makes a fine exhibit. When a community can manufacture cloth and boots and shoes and hats for bodily comfort; flour and meat, sugar and molasses to live on; knives and forks to eat with; glassware to eat and drink out of; paper and matches and oil and machinery for the manifold needs of life—it must, indeed, be in a thriving condition.

A short space is devoted to a sketch of the city and the towns of the county, concerning which columns could be written.

In brief, we shall draw a pen picture of the best and leading county

in Iowa, all things taken into honest consideration, and invite immigration to its city, towns, and farms, where location, healthfulness, educational, manufacturing, agricultural, and other interests combine to make it one of the most pleasant and profitable of all places to live.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION.

Cross the Mississippi river at Davenport, ascend the bluffs lining its western banks, and you are on a broad, rolling plateau, that extends for miles into the eastern part of Iowa. No more beautiful tract of land than this can be seen anywhere. When the first settlers came, they found it a vast prairie, rich in verdure, and the home of the roaming Indian and wild animals. The rivers and streams were filled with fish, the air with fowls, and existence was a pleasure for those who loved a nomadic life, and cared little for the advantages of civilization. A strip of land lying between the river now known as Cedar, and the river, then, as now, called Iowa, was especially attractive to new comers. The banks of each of these streams were lined with timber, and then came a broad prairie extending from river to river, with a gently undulating surface, with here and there bunches of trees, and watered by creeks and miniature lakes. High and dry, almost every acre of land lay ready for the plow-share, and black in its virgin richness. This tract, together with a sweep of several miles on the west bank of the Iowa river, was Johnson county, forty odd years ago. Its appearance to-day is greatly changed. Where once was wild, treeless prairie, are now farms with orchards, and groves of cultivated trees; the wooded hills have given way to meadows, and a prosperous city and little towns have sprung up on the site of the old wigwams. The same natural advantages of elevation, abundant timber, water, variety of soil, and physical contour remain; but railroads, factories, mills, churches, and school-houses have come to change a wilderness into a great State.

Johnson county lies between forty-one degrees twenty-four minutes and forty-one degrees fifty-one minutes of north latitude, and the longitude of its central meridian is about ninety-one degrees and thirty-three minutes west. The reader can see at a glance that the geographical location is the best, insuring a mild temperature at almost all seasons, and is adapted to the raising of every kind of fruit and grain. The eastern line of the county is forty-five miles from the Mississippi at Davenport, and fifteen miles from Muscatine. The county is bounded on the north by Linn county, on the east by Muscatine and Cedar counties, on the south by Louisa and Washington counties, and on the west by Iowa county. There are six sections more than seventeen congressional townships of land,—containing, in all, six hundred and eighteen square miles, or *three hundred and ninety-five thousand five hundred and twenty acres of land;* or half as many acres as there are in the entire State of Rhode Island.

As has been said, the surface of the county presents a great variety.

Along the Iowa river are high and wooded bluffs, forming picturesque and beautiful scenery, which extend with gradual decline for miles to the west and south. The eastern part of the county is more open, and better suited to cultivation.

HISTORICAL.

A small Indian trader's cabin, in what is now known as Pleasant Valley, was the only mark of civilization in Johnson county in the year 1836. Prior to that time, the red man held undisputed sway. Tempted by the reports of the richness of the prairies along the Iowa, and the abundance of game and furs, John Gilbert, a shrewd and daring man, visited them, and soon was engaged in a profitable trade. In the fall of that year, through Gilbert's representation, two other white men were induced to move here, and stake out claims for a permanent home. These men were Philip Clark and Eli Myers, and were the first white settlers of the county. To their friends and relatives in Indiana, from whence they came, Clark and Myers sent back glowing descriptions of their new home, the richness of the soil, the healthfulness of the country, the abundance of good timber and other material for building, and urged them to come out and enjoy the many advantages nature had so lavishly bestowed. As a result, the next year a number of persons arrived at the settlement, among them the Walkers, Felkners, William Wilson, Col. Trowbridge, Pleasant Harris, A. D. Stephens, Samuel Bumgardner, Jonathan Harris, S. H. McCrory, George W. Hawkins, Jacob Earhart, John Henry, and John Cane. These new-comers soon selected favorite spots, laid out claims, and began to make the wilderness around them look like the abode of man. The Iowa river, for several miles above and below the trading post was a popular camping ground for the Indians, and the bluffs on either side were dotted with towns or villages. The presence of so many savages, and other dangers surrounding them, did not deter the pioneer settlers from pushing along their improvements. Many strange adventures were encountered, many hardships endured, but the tide of immigration had turned to this part of the West, and, despite all opposition, family after family arrived, cabins were built, farms laid out, and the prairies began to show a thrifty settlement. The surrounding country at this time was a part of the Territory of Wisconsin, but in the Spring of 1838, Congress created the Territory of Iowa. In the fall of the same year, Col. Trowbridge, one of the most active of the early settlers, received a commission from the Governor, Henry Dodge, appointing him sheriff, and authorizing him to organize a county within certain limits, and to name it Johnson, in honor of Vice-President Richard M. Johnson, of Kentucky. This Col. Trowbridge proceeded to do, in an energetic and satisfactory manner, following out his instructions to a dot. September 10th an election for commissioners was held, and resulted in the choice of Henry Felkner, Abner Walcott, and Wm. Sturgis. Soon after, the town of Napoleon was laid out on what is now known as the McCallister farm, two miles south of Iowa

City, and here was held the first court in Johnson county. Settlers came in rapidly, and the Indians saw their famous hunting ground converted into gardens and farms.

While these changes were being made in this part of the State, the territorial legislature, at Burlington, was discussing a suitable location for a seat of government. The advantages of Johnson county won many to support it as an appropriate county within which to have the capital, and its friends were finally victorious, and the spot agreed upon was to be within its borders, on the Iowa river. Of the location of the capital, and the incidents connected therewith, Mr. Cyrus Sanders, one of the oldest settlers, is compiling a history of the county, and in the *Weekly Republican* of September 15th, 1880, gave a graphic description of the location of the capital, and the incidents connected therewith; and in the numbers following, he tells of the first sale of lots and celebration of the first Fourth of July. The series of sketches include many interesting reminiscences.

Iowa City having been made the permanent territorial capital, people flocked hither from all parts of the east, and a lively town sprang up; capitalists found it a profitable point for speculation and investment, and it soon became one of the most flourishing towns on the frontier.

In 1840, there were about fifteen hundred inhabitants in the county; and from that year until now the number has increased very rapidly. The first post-office, with S. H. McCrory at its head, was established in 1840, and Iowa City was placed in direct communication with the outside world. In the same year the first newspaper, the *Republican*, then called the *Standard*, was established by Wm. Crum and W. D. Bailey, and in 1841 Joshua and David Switzer built and operated on Clear Creek the first flouring mill in the county. About the same time, Jesse Berry opened in Iowa City the first school; three years later, the Protestant Methodists erected the first church in the county, and on January 1st, 1856, the first railroad car entered Iowa City over the M. & M., now the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad.

The growth of Iowa City, from the time of the location of the capital here, until its removal to Des Moines, was rapid. This latter act, followed by the stagnation of business during the rebellion, had a paralyzing influence on the city; but, commencing with 1868, new life was infused into the entire county, and an era of prosperity set in that has made Johnson county the garden spot of Iowa, and placed Iowa City, not only ahead of her sisters as an educational center, but also as a manufacturing town.

EDUCATIONAL.

While our people lay stress upon the business advantages of Iowa City, they do not forget nor fail to appreciate the opportunities it affords for obtaining an education. The latter have, indeed, for years been its chief pride, on account of the attention given the schools, both public and private, and the fact that here is located the head of the school

system of our State, the State University. Iowa City has been recognized as an educational city of importance, and has been christened the "Athens of Iowa," a title of which it is proud, because fairly and justly earned. Here are gathered every year hundreds of young men and women from all parts of the country. They come to prepare themselves for life's duties. The State University opens its doors to those who desire to receive a finished education, or enter the practice of law or medicine; the academies and training schools prepare students for the Freshman class of the University, and offer rare facilities for those who desire a plain, practical education, and do not care to take the time for, or incur the expense of, a collegiate course; the Commercial College is first-class in all its appointments, and prepares scores of young people annually for active business pursuits; several music schools fill the wants in that direction, and our excellent public schools do excellent work in their way. In short, there are schools here to give persons just such an education as they may desire. The influence of these educational institutions upon the people is marked. The University has brought within our borders families of education and wealth, who came here to enjoy its benefits, and the whole influence has been constantly toward a more educated and refined state of society. The young people who come among us are generally sensible and refined, and the treatment they receive is cordial and kind, and tends to bind them and our citizens closely together. They are welcomed to the churches, the Sunday schools, and the social circle; they are treated as young ladies and gentlemen responsible for their own acts, and not as wards of some close-ruled boarding school. There are no poisonous boarding houses or dormitories connected with any of the schools, but the students board and room in private houses among our citizens, and thus are closely associated with our best people. They are simply ruled by the laws of gentlemanly or lady-like bearing, and the authorities of the schools have no occasion for administering discipline.

THE STATE UNIVERSITY.

This institution is under the control of the State, having as a basis of support the avails of two townships of land given by the United States Government, and an annual endowment by the State of \$20,000. The tuitions paid by students amount to about fifteen thousand dollars annually. Its immediate control is in the hands of a Board of Regents, consisting of twelve members, three of whom — the Governor, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the President of the University — are *ex-officio* members; the remaining nine are elected by the Legislature, one from each Congressional District, and hold their offices for six years, three being elected at each biennial session of the Legislature.

The University has Collegiate, Law, Medical, and Homeopathic Departments.

The COLLEGiate DEPARTMENT embraces a School of Letters and a School of Science. Each school has two distinct courses of study. The

Classical Course of the School of Letters differs from the Philosophical Course of the same school in the relative proportion of the ancient and modern languages, the latter putting German in the place of Greek in the former. The School of Science has also two courses—the first devoted to Physical and Natural Science, and the second to Civil Engineering. No ancient language in either of these courses, but considerable time is devoted to German and French. After the first two years of the course in Science, there is opportunity given the student to devote himself to either Physical Science or Natural Science, as his taste may incline him.

Each of the four courses of study is arranged for four years. After the first year, there is a gradually increased number of elective studies, and during the Senior year the student elects two or three out of five to seven studies placed in the curriculum.

The University has no Preparatory Course, but relies upon the high schools and academies of the State for the work of preparation. Since the closing of its Preparatory School, there has been a marked increase in the number in the Collegiate classes. The high schools of the State are adapting their courses of study to the preparatory work required by the University, while the latter has shaped its course somewhat to meet the needs of the high schools. Students are admitted to the University from high schools and academies—whose work has been approved—without examination. Persons of maturity of mind are often admitted to special studies. Facilities are afforded such students in the excellent library now numbering more than thirteen thousand volumes of well-selected books, and in well-equipped laboratories, in both physical and natural sciences.

There are connected with the University several literary societies, furnishing students with ample opportunity for essay writing, declamation, and debate.

The **LAW DEPARTMENT** has a course of one or two years, at the option of the student. The graduate from either is admitted to practice in both State and Federal Courts. The Law Library has about four thousand volumes. Club courts, moot courts, and literary societies are organized for the benefit of the students. The course of instruction differs from that in other law schools in that it is systematically arranged with reference to the best interests of the student.

The **MEDICAL DEPARTMENT** has a two years' Lecture Course, as is common in other medical schools; but it has, also, a three years' Graded Course, which is becoming more and more popular with students who desire thorough preparation for their work. To this latter course students are admitted only upon examination in English studies equivalent to that required for admission to the best high schools in the State. Certificate of connection with such high schools is accepted in lieu of examination. The cabinet and library of this department are well supplied with helps needed for thorough study. Abundant opportunities for clinical study are furnished in a well-ordered hospital.

The HOMEOPATHIC MEDICAL DEPARTMENT has a basis similar to that of the Medical Department. Such instruction as is common to both is received from the professors of the Medical Department.

The University campus is one of the most attractive spots in the State. The buildings are well adapted to the purposes for which they are used, though the number of students is so large as to crowd them to their utmost capacity. The attendance for the past year was five hundred and fifty-eight.

Each department has its own faculty, the President of the University being president of each faculty.

Information will be cheerfully given on application to the President.

IOWA CITY ACADEMY.

This school has been in successful operation since 1870, and during that time, has enrolled over three thousand students, who have attended one or more terms. It has two courses of study, one designed especially for those who desire to prepare to enter the University, and another, designed to give a sound, practical education. The common branches, as well as the more advanced, are taught, and all the work is quite thorough. The proprietors, the Messrs. Hiatt, are thorough educators of large experience, and, under their guidance, assisted by competent teachers, the Academy is growing in favor each year. It occupies rooms just northeast of the University.

HULL'S TRAINING AND NORMAL SCHOOL.

This institution, though younger than the other schools, has already made a fine reputation for itself. It embraces much the same scope as the Academy. It pays special attention to the preparation of teachers for their work, and also prepares students for the University. Prof. Hull, the proprietor, is a teacher of thirty years' experience, and is doing a fine work. He has able assistants, among whom are Miss Sarah F. Longridge, for years an instructor in the University, and Miss Hattie Parker, who teaches German, having spent much time in Germany studying the language. The school occupies pleasant rooms, corner of Dubuque Street and Iowa Avenue.

ST. JOSEPH'S INSTITUTE,

is a Catholic school, under the personal supervision of Rev. Father Emmons. It gives thorough education in common branches, the ancient and modern languages, and the sciences. It is well supported by the people whose religious views it represents, and, in return, gives them rare advantages for good education. There are connected with the schools good laboratories for physical and natural sciences, and abundance of apparatus for the successful working of the school.

ST. AGATHA'S SEMINARY,

another Catholic school, and under the control and personal supervision of the Sisters of Charity, is designed for the training and educating of

young ladies. In addition to the common branches, music, sewing, and fancy work are taught. Persons not members of that church send their daughters to this school, on account of the facilities it offers for acquiring such an education as young ladies specially need.

THE COMMERCIAL COLLEGE.

This is an old and well known institution. Its graduates are in every branch of business in this and other States. It does its work in such a manner as to give students a practical knowledge of business. Books are kept as accurately as in banks, and partnership and all the rules of business are carefully observed. When part of the students are banking, others do business at the bank with college currency, give drafts, checks, borrow and deposit; while those in the bank conduct the business, just as real, and with as much care and precision, as though doing actual business. Prof. Williams and his assistants understand their work thoroughly, and spare no pains to make their school what it is—one of the best in the State. Special attention is given to commercial arithmetic and commercial law. The latter is taught by an educated and experienced lawyer.

Ornamental and business penmanship is taught, and classes in both are formed for day and evening to suit the wishes of pupils. Full information will be given by this, or any other of the schools, on application.

OUR CITY SCHOOLS.

There are four large and commodious school buildings in different parts of the city. The schools are under the supervision of Prof. A. A. Guthrie, and each building has a principal. They are carefully graded, from the infant class room to the high school, from which pupils are admitted to the Freshman class of the University. The teachers are well qualified for their work, and all are pleased with the prosperity of the city schools. They are a credit to the city, and are well attended by the children of the city. The Board of Directors are elected by the people, regardless of party affiliations, and they carefully and conscientiously perform their duties. The schools are in session ten months in the year.

MANUFACTURING.

With the great number of railroad stations in Iowa, all of which are good shipping points, any town, to grow and prosper, must have more than a retail trade to sustain its business. It must in some way give employment to a large number of consumers, must have markets of a superior order to bring produce from a distance, and with it gain additional trade.

Iowa City, at one time the terminus of a railroad, the capital of the State, the market for points hundred of miles distant, had a retail trade and did a jobbing business with inland towns, that made fair to make it a great city. But the capital of the State was removed, other lines of

railroads passed on all sides of us, and only a few years ago our city awakened to the realization that the score of small towns on every side of it were offering just as good markets as it for all the farmers' produce, and were doing a great deal of retail trading for the surrounding country.

Thus crippled, the city took on new life, and determined to so use its resources that work would be given to mechanics and others, and thus increase the population of the city, and, at the same time, make such a demand for the leading products of the farm that it would be an object for the farmer to come here to sell, and consequently buy. The result of these efforts will be seen farther on, when the manufacturing establishments are reviewed.

The facilities for manufacturing are not surpassed by any western city. The Iowa river, with its great stream of rapidly flowing water, pours through our midst, ledges of rocks, suitable for building, overhang its banks; our clay makes the best of pottery, tiling, and brick; thousands of acres of timber, and good coal at our doors, render fuel cheap; and, in fact, all that nature could have done to aid man in his skill, has been well performed; and to these natural endowments is needed only man's energy and direction and wealth's powerful auxiliary to open up establishments that will bring prosperity and material growth to our city.

Several of the older works have been doing service and richly repaying their proprietors for many years. The dam, two miles up the river, has held back the watery forces that have turned the wheels of the flouring, paper, and oat meal mills. Three other flouring mills have been doing business for years. The oil mills have turned out rich profits long before the "boom" was heard, and the machine shops, the husk factory, the breweries, the several cigar factories, the pottery, the planing mill, and other institutions, were forerunners of the great change. There is yet much undeveloped treasure. Much more capital can be profitably invested, and parties who desire to find a place where their capital can be safely and profitably used, should come here and look the field over.

Among the leading manufacturing establishments, are

THE PAPER MILLS,

located two miles up the river. The buildings are large and commodious; two sets of machinery are employed, and day and night, the year round, they roll out a ceaseless stream of cardboard and paper. Water power is used, but at times the river gets too low to give this great concern constant power, so steam has been added, so that at no time will the power fail. These mills give a good market for straw, at about three dollars per ton, and in the fall of the year, acres of land are covered with straw stacks. The mills employ forty hands, and support about two hundred and fifty inhabitants. The proprietors are Messrs. M. T. Close & Sons, a branch of the wide-awake family of that name in Iowa.

THE GLUCOSE WORKS.

This corporation has been pushing forward its immense building with remarkable dispatch, and it will be ready for the first load of corn of the season. The buildings are just south of the C. R. I. & P. Railroad, and near the river. The main building has a north frontage of two hundred and four feet, extends back one hundred and sixty-one feet, and is from two to seven stories high. The boiler room is 52x104 feet, and the tank house, 40x60 feet. A great number of bins will be used to hold the grain. The buildings are brick, and built very substantial and strong. It will be operated by steam power. The capital stock of the company is \$125,000. Mr. W. P. Coast is President, Mr. Samuel Sharpless, Secretary, and Mr. W. J. Allen, an experienced glucose maker, is Superintendent. The capacity is three thousand bushels of corn daily, although it will start at but half that amount. The shipment of glucose will be about three car-loads daily, and the same number of loads of coal will be consumed daily. After the glucose is taken from the corn, there will remain a sweet substance, which is used as feed for cattle and hogs. The great amount of corn consumed by the works assure the farmers regular prices the year round; and, as most of it must be shipped in for this and the Alcohol Works, the farmers living near can get the profits and the freights that must be paid for the corn shipped from a distance. The works will employ about one hundred hands.

THE IOWA FLINT GLASS COMPANY.

This company has a capital of \$40,000; was organized last spring, and has its buildings completed, machinery in, and is now turning out as fine quality of ware as any of the Eastern factories. The furnace house is two stories, 75 feet square, and the building in which are the engine, cooling, storing, and packing-rooms and office, is two stories and 40x120 feet. The stack is 84 feet high. The furnace contains thirteen pots, and there are also three small side furnaces. The erection of the works has been under the personal direction of Mr. J. H. Leighton, Superintendent of the factory. The sand for the manufacturing of glass is obtained within a few miles of the city; it has been thoroughly tested, and is as good as any for flint glass. The proprietors employ one hundred and fifty men, and, when in full operation, the works turn out at least a car-load of glassware each day.

THE IOWA CITY PACKING COMPANY

is the latest organized, but it stands first in importance to the people. It will put more dollars into their hands than any other institution that could be operated here. The great farm product is hogs, and anything that will aid their market will add many dollars to the wealth of the farmers. The packing-house will give a good steady market for the "farmers' pride." It will ship its cured meats direct to Europe, and will not be influenced by the sudden rises and falls of markets in Chicago, caused by speculations, a scarcity, or overstock. This corporation will

bring farmers here from a distance, and thus our retail trade will be increased. The company is composed entirely of Johnson county men, and uses home capital. It has a capital stock of \$100,000, divided among our best business men and farmers. Hon. E. Clark is President; M. W. Davis, Secretary; and Lovell Swisher, Treasurer. The location is south of the city, on forty acres of land, ten acres of which will be laid out into lots for residences of the employes, of whom there will be at least two hundred. The building will be brick, three stories high and 128 feet square, built upon the most improved plan. Its capacity will be five hundred hogs in summer and one thousand in winter, and will be increased as soon as there is a demand.

THE CUTLERY WORKS

are an established institution of the city. They were completed last April, and have not lost an hour from work since the day they started. They find a ready market for all the goods they can make, and a large amount of goods has been already made. They use the most improved machinery, the best cast steel for cutlery, and turn out a fine quality of goods. The capital stock is \$25,000. They employ over forty hands. The buildings are brick,—main building, 42x82 feet, two stories; blacksmith shop, 32x36 feet.

THE IOWA CITY ALCOHOL COMPANY

began operations one year ago, having rebuilt the old Hull & Scofield distillery, which had been destroyed by fire. The company has a capital of \$50,000, and the works have a capacity of one thousand bushels of corn a day, when running twelve hours. The company employs forty hands at good wages, and five government officials are stationed at the works. Last year they fed 672 head of steers, and, having increased the capacity of the works, will feed about one thousand this year. During the first eight months, this company paid out in this city and county over one hundred and twenty-eight thousand dollars. The alcohol is shipped in bond to New York, and thence to the Liverpool market. No liquors are made for home consumption. The works make a demand for corn, and it was all filled last year by the Johnson county farmers, to the amount of over one hundred thousand bushels.

THE LINSEED OIL MILL.

This is a private institution, the property of M. T. Close & Co., and under the direct management of Mr. C. D. Close. During the past summer the mill has been overhauled and put in fine condition. It has been in operation many years, and has reaped a rich harvest for its owners. Last year they bought and consumed 110,000 bushels of flax seed. Twenty-five men are employed.

THE OAT MEAL MILLS

are two miles up the river, at the Coralville dam. They make the best brands of meal, and sell all they can manufacture; use all our home

crop of oats, and ship in from western Iowa. Their capacity they do not give, but the largest London orders are filled promptly. The mills have machinery of the best kind, largely made to their own order. About one hundred persons receive their support from the oat meal mills, as proprietors or employees.

THE BREWERIES

are three in number—J. P. Dostal's, Simon Hotz's, and Englert & Rittenmeyer's. These employ a large amount of capital, a great many hands, and manufacture over thirty thousand barrels of beer annually. They have pushed their trade with commendable zeal, and Iowa City beer is sold all over this portion of the State, and as far west as Nebraska. The buildings of Mr. Dostal are the largest, covering over one-quarter of a block.

THE HAWKEYE MACHINE WORKS

are owned and operated by N. H. Tulloss. They manufacture boilers engines, lamp-posts, building columns, and all kinds of mouldings; do machine repairing, and all kinds of work generally done by machinists. They are well provided with machinery, patterns, etc., and do the best of work. During the summer they have added new machinery in order to meet their rapidly increasing trade.

One of our newest enterprises is—

THE IOWA CITY IRON WORKS,

Long, McConnell & Co., proprietors. The existence of this firm dates from July 1, 1880. They have, in this short time, Iowa City like, exhibited a considerable degree of energy, and, we think, good judgment in procuring for their use the best made machinery of modern times. Their shop is well equipped with lathes, planers, drilling machines, bolt-cutters, a very fine shaper, and almost any tool a machinist or model maker could think of, making it one of the best shops in the country for steam engine works, or repairing machinery. They are now receiving a large share of patronage, and are kept busy with orders from our city and neighboring towns.

AGRICULTURAL.

The description of the physical features of this county, given elsewhere, reveals many of its finest qualities as an agricultural district. It possesses all that is required for successful farming. Land is valuable, but not high; it is naturally rich, and good cultivation has greatly enhanced its productiveness. Timber is abundant; lumber, for fencing and building, is comparatively cheap; rock abounds on the streams in endless quantities; coal is found, excellent and plenty, just beyond our borders; and, in fact, all that is needed to make farming cheap and convenient we have in as great an abundance as any county in the State. This is no guess work, but a pleasant fact. For forty years our farmers

have labored, and, although most of them began poor, they are now rich, or, at least, well-to-do; and much of their success is due to the facilities they possess for raising large and varied crops, and selling crops to advantage. The success of our farmers can best be understood by traveling among them. Do so, and you will see large, well improved farms; fine, comfortable dwelling houses, and large barns, granaries, and out-buildings; groves of timber; all sorts of fruit in abundance; machinery, the largest and best for all kinds of farm work; stock of the best grades, and all that taste and money can obtain.

The careful farmer provides everything necessary to lighten the task of those who perform the heavy work: for who adds more to the pleasure and success of farming than the frugal, careful wives and daughters? The large farm kitchen, cool, clean cellar, and all that can add to the comfort and convenience of the hard-working women on our farms, are here furnished; for the wealth and social position of the people require these necessities, while, in other less-favored places, life is trodden out by the old-fashioned drudgery of labor day and night, with no comforts or conveniences.

The advantages of higher education for the children of the farmer are fully depicted in these pages. The common schools are of the best; school-houses are convenient, teachers employed are well qualified, and school is in session eight months out of twelve. It costs but a few dollars a year to educate the youth of our Johnson county farmers. Young people come to the city, rent rooms, use their own furniture, board themselves, having provisions brought from the farm, and thus, with a small outlay, they can obtain a good education. These advantages are to be found imprinted indelibly on the characters and habits of our farmers. Look into their parlors,—neat carpets, elegant furniture, organs or pianos; their daughters versed in music, an art that makes cheerful many homes Sundays and evenings, when the family and its friends are gathered together. The same hand that kneads the bread and milks the cows makes sweet music to charm and enliven the home.

In every center of communities, the church-spire points heavenward as an index of the moral standing and religious sentiments of the people. There is not a point in this county that is not within easy access of one or more places of worship.

Corn is *the* crop of this county; it pays best. It feeds cattle and hogs, and also has a good market in the crude state. Wheat, oats, rye, barley, flax, etc., are raised in abundance. As already pointed out, the farmer has the best facilities for raising large and varied crops, and the article on manufacturing hints at the demand for all that he produces. The farmer makes the most money when he sells all that he produces in its most refined state; or, when he sells to those who reduce it before shipping. Corn and hay are transformed into pork and beef, and the owner gets the profits that would otherwise accrue to the feeder, if he sold his corn and cattle before feeding. The oats are ground and made into oat meal, and, thus refined, go direct to the London market; the flax-seed is ground,

crushed, and pressed, and the oil finds a market, while the leavings are used for feed. The barley is made into beer, and sent to all parts of the State. Corn finds a ready market at the alcohol and glucose works, and, when the alcohol is made, the slops feed a large number of cattle, while the alcohol goes in bond direct to the Liverpool market; or, on the other hand, after the glucose is made, there still remains a substance of much value as feed. These refining processes leave the farmer his share of the profits, furnish a constant market, and support laborers who must live off what the farmer produces. But our county cannot supply the home demand for corn, barley, flax-seed, and oats, and thus the home market is better than that of places where corn is shipped to us, by the amount of the cost of shipments. Then, again, the farmer finds a home market for his hogs that is largely met by shipments, or filled from points at a considerable distance, and the packing-house that uses all these hogs is not at all influenced by the operations of the Chicago "bulls and bears," but it gives a good steady market, shipping its cured meats direct to Europe. There are many little things that here bring good prices, that are of small value in less favored places. The oats and wheat straw is in demand at the paper mills, vegetables and fruits are needed in the city, and good butter, eggs, and other articles used as food, must be had by the men who live in the city and work in the factories. Among the products of the farm should not be forgotten the abundance and variety of fruit. Iowa is fast becoming a great apple country, while peaches, pears, plums, and almost all kinds of fruit are grown. The vineyards also are numerous, and the shipping of grapes and manufacture of wine have grown into an extensive trade.

The farms in Johnson county are mostly in tracts of from eighty to one hundred and sixty acres, but there are many that contain from five hundred to a thousand acres, and even more. Almost without exception, they are fenced and subdivided by hedge, plank, or wire fences, and a large proportion of the land is under cultivation.

Some idea of the principal products of the farms in Johnson county, may be obtained from a careful examination of the subjoined table. Compared with similar statistics of other counties in Iowa, this showing places Johnson in the lead of sister counties of the State. The census gives the following —

YIELD OF LEADING PRODUCTS.

| YEAR. | WHEAT. <i>Bus.</i> | RYE. <i>Bus.</i> | CORN. <i>Bus.</i> | OATS. <i>Bus.</i> | BARLEY. <i>Bus.</i> | FLAX. <i>Bus.</i> | POTATOES <i>Bus.</i> |
|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1868 | 557,904 | 23,229 | 2,902,278 | 495,217 | 8,020 | 33,773 | 76,192 |
| 1870 | 480,177 | 22,450 | 2,017,349 | 501,919 | 21,116 | 21,739 | 96,807 |
| 1872 | 481,491 | | 3,385,218 | 666,288 | 98,807 | | — |
| 1874 | 666,779 | 19,747 | *3,158,178 | 522,197 | 56,680 | | 161,268 |

LIVE STOCK INTERESTS.

This sketch would be incomplete without a mention of the fine herds of cattle and horses and flocks of sheep that grace the farms of Johnson county. The shrewd farmer has long since found that it pays best to feed his cattle and hogs the grain he raises, rather than sell it in a crude form. To this end, hogs and cattle have been improved with a view of getting animals that will gain the most pounds of flesh with the least amount of feed in the shortest time. Fine stock, as a matter of speculation, is not indulged in, fancy prices having long since passed away, and it is now usual to so improve the herds that they will be more profitable. Some keep special breeds of cattle in order that they may produce milk, butter, or cheese; but these are the exceptions. Most of the farmers aim to keep stock that will grow large and fatten easily; for it is the amount of flesh that a bushel of corn will put upon an animal, as well as the quality thereof, that determines its value. Care in winter pastures, and good breeding, have made the cattle of Johnson county and vicinity famous. Sheep, formerly so extensively raised, have for several years been in disfavor; but several farmers are again largely engaged in sheep raising, and find it quite profitable, too. It can be safely said that Johnson county stands fully abreast, if not ahead, of any county in Iowa, in the number and quality of thoroughbred stock. This has several times been demonstrated by the first premiums awarded at the State and other fairs. There are several excellent and widely known herds of Short-horn cattle, whose owners have a national reputation as good judges and careful breeders of stock. Then there are the Holsteins, Jerseys, and Ayrshires, all celebrated for fine qualities, and bred here with success. The number of these cattle sent out into other counties every year is very large.

On every hand, the superiority of the sheep in Johnson county is recognized. The fine herd of Mr. S. H. Thompson is without a rival in Iowa, and, probably, in the United States. Of the strains of thoroughbred sheep, are the Cotswold, Merino, and Southdown, all well selected, and good growers and wool producers.

Of the thoroughbred horses in the county may be mentioned the Clydesdale, Hambletonian, Norman, Mambrino, Jonesborough, and other valuable families.

The Johnson county hogs have a State reputation. Here are the Chester Whites, the Poland-Chinas, the Berkshires, the red Berkshires, and, indeed, groups of every fancy breed known. The owners take great pains in preserving the purity of the strains, and improving them, and the result is the finest specimens of swine.

In addition to pure-bred stock, the county is noted for the excellence of its graded cattle, hogs, and horses. The farmers take special pains to improve their herds and flocks by the introduction of better strains and by careful treatment.

From the official records the following table has been compiled, show-

ing the number of cattle, one year old and over, and number of hogs, six months old and over, in the county, together with their assessed values, for the years given. It makes a splendid showing.

| YEAR. | CATTLE. | VALUE. | HOGS. | VALUE. |
|-------|---------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| 1874 | 27,645 | \$306,156 | 33,020 | \$ 57,533 |
| 1875 | 28,900 | 285,831 | 35,307 | 105,152 |
| 1876 | 28,394 | 279,985 | 39,959 | 130,397 |
| 1877 | 26,259 | 265,820 | 46,853 | 103,428 |

The census returns for 1870 give 6,022 cattle, and 58,760 hogs. The value of animals sold for export, slaughtered and sold for slaughter, and all the products of the herd, amounts to \$853,384.

CITIES AND TOWNS.

IOWA CITY,

the county-seat of Johnson county, stands upon a high plateau, on the east bank of the Iowa river. In extent it covers about three square miles; it is laid out in even square blocks, with streets from eighty to one hundred feet wide. The streets have been mostly brought to a grade; stone crossings are found at every intersection, and sidewalks are well built and kept in thorough repair. Substantial stone structures bridge the gullies and rivulets, a fine iron bridge spans the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad track and Ralston creek; and every precaution is taken to render travel safe and pleasant. The business streets are all macadamized, as also are some of the others.

The business houses show the taste and wealth of our business men. They are large, commodious, and substantial—many of them owned by their occupants. They stand in close proximity to each other, thus consolidating the business portion of the city.

The business men are keen, sagacious, and enterprising. They are men of means, who have generally made their money in this city, and in all public enterprises they show commendable spirit. The present prosperity of the city is largely due to them.

The beauty of the residences in the city has always been a subject of remark by visitors. The people have vied with each other, not in the expense of their houses, but, rather, in the arrangement of the trees, flowers, walks, and lawns—so that, in the summer months, the city presents the appearance of a vast grove. The homes are thus made beautiful, whether they be the cottages of the mechanic and day laborer, or the mansions of the rich.

The public schools, the University, the churches, and the manufacturing buildings are noteworthy features of the city. The church sittings are sufficient to accommodate the entire population of the city.

The sanitary conditions are good. The Board of Health requires all

streets, gutters, alleys, and buildings to be kept clean. These precautionary measures, combined with the high location of the city, render the place very healthy.

The Opera House is one of the finest in the State, and is amply large for the needs of the city.

The city is lighted with gas,—street lamps are upon almost every corner, and mains are being laid to the more remote portions of the city.

Iowa City is a place of wealth. It furnished all the capital for its banking and manufacturing, and, in addition to thousands of dollars loaned, has much capital for investment.

The Board of Trade is a live institution, and is composed of nearly all the business and professional men and capitalists of the city. It looks after the business interests of the city, seeks to induce capitalists to settle here, and is alive to all that may promote the public welfare.

OXFORD,

a station on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, has about five hundred inhabitants, and does considerable business. It supports a lively local paper, has a good school building, three churches, a flouring mill, and two elevators. It is a good shipping point, and a large amount of grain is bought; so, also, of cattle and hogs. It has not yet been incorporated.

SOLON,

situated twelve miles northeast of Iowa City, is a live station on the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad. It does a large grain business, deals extensively in hogs and cattle, and has a very rich farming country around it. It has a steam elevator and planing mill. There are a number of business houses that do a flourishing business.

LONE TREE,

though not as large as Solon or Oxford, does a greater grain and stock business. It is sixteen miles from Iowa City, and has a considerable country trade from the southeastern corner of Johnson, and also from Muscatine county.

Morse, Oasis, River Junction, and Tiffin are small railroad stations, that do some retail business and considerable shipping. Coralville, a suburb of Iowa City, has the paper, oat meal, and flouring mills, and has the finest water power on the Iowa river. North Liberty, Shueyville, Windham, Amish, Morfordsville, and Newport, are country villages, with a store or two in each, and one post-office.

It will be seen that no town in Johnson county competes with Iowa City for the supremacy. Its business men have no competition at the hands of other towns, and capital invested in manufacturing is not in jeopardy by competition from other places.

OTHER INDUSTRIES.

If space permitted, we would like to speak in detail of the extensive flouring mills, the creameries, the cheese and other factories, the large dairy and fruit farms, the nurseries, and the other industries that make Johnson county prosperous and her people happy.

In conclusion, we can only say to the latter: Continue to work for the improvement of your homes and the welfare of society, and the good times now upon you will continue. To those in other States, into whose hands these pages may fall, our advice is: Come and visit Johnson county, and you can see what we have attempted to describe in this review.





